

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information collection server comprising:

a collection conditions memory that pre-stores the  
5 conditions for collecting contents;

an information collection portion that accesses servers  
based on said collection conditions, collects the contents of  
said servers, and distributes the collected contents to a mobile  
terminal; and

10 a conversion portion that converts the collected contents  
into a format for said mobile terminal,

wherein said information collection portion contains a  
synchronization portion for synchronizing contents between  
itself and said mobile terminal every time contents are updated.

15 2. An information collection server according to claim 1,  
further comprising:

an image memory that stores image data;

20 a mobile terminal image memory that stores image data for  
said mobile terminal; and

an image server that receives image data from said server  
and/or said mobile terminal and stores the received data in said  
image memory, converts said image data into an image for said  
mobile terminal, and stores the converted data in said mobile  
25 terminal image memory,

wherein said information collection portion generates a  
pointer of said image data and/or said mobile terminal image  
data, and transmits the generated pointer to said mobile  
terminal.

30 3. An information collection server according to claim 2,  
wherein, in response to a demand from said mobile terminal, said  
information collection portion retrieves said image memory  
and/or said mobile terminal image memory based on said pointer,  
35 and transmits said image data and/or mobile terminal image data  
to said mobile terminal.

FOOTNOTES

4. An information collection server according to claim 2,  
wherein said pointer includes at least one of information  
showing the storage location of the original image and  
5 information showing the storage location of the image for a  
mobile terminal.

5. An information collection server according to claim 1,  
wherein said synchronization portion sets a generation number  
10 showing the state of contents and/or message, and updates said  
generation number at least in one of the cases of said  
information collection portion receiving new contents and/or  
messages, the contents and/or message in said information  
collection portion being corrected, and the contents and/or  
15 message in said information collection portion being deleted,  
and wherein said mobile terminal receives said generation  
number, and when the received generation number differs from  
the previously received generation number, sends a demand to  
said synchronization portion for transfer of contents and/or  
20 message.

6. An information collection server according to claim 5,  
wherein said contents/message includes an ID number as its  
attribute, and  
25 when said information collection portion receives a new message,  
the updated generation number is set as said ID number,  
when the contents and/or message of said information collection  
portion is corrected, said ID number is not updated, and  
when the contents and/or message of said information collection  
30 portion is deleted, said ID number is not updated, but the  
contents and/or message is overwritten by a pseudo-message.

7. An information collection server according to claim 6,  
wherein, if, upon receiving the transfer of contents and/or  
35 message from said synchronization portion of said information  
collection portion, the mobile terminal:

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does not hold any contents and/or message having the same ID number as that of the transferred contents and/or message, the mobile terminal registers the contents and/or message having such ID number as new contents and/or messages,

5 holds contents and/or message having the same ID number as that of the transferred contents and/or message, the mobile terminal corrects its own contents and/or message having such ID number by rewriting it with the contents and/or message newly acquired from the server, and,

10 holds contents and/or message having the same ID number as that of the transferred contents and/or message, and if the contents and/or message gained from the server is a pseudo-message, the mobile terminal deletes its own contents and/or message having such ID number.

15 8. An information collection server according to claim 5, wherein said synchronization portion notifies said generation number in predetermined time intervals.

20 9. An information collection server according to claim 1, wherein said collection conditions include at least a URL (Universal Resource Locator) and a portion of the HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) source of the home page specified by said URL.

25 10. An information collection server according to claim 1, wherein said collection conditions include HTML source tags, and said information collection portion cuts out and acquires information based on said tags.

30 11. An information collection server according to claim 1, wherein said collection conditions include at least one of the date and time information of the HTML source, and, based on such information, said information collection portion cuts out and  
35 acquires information.

FOOTNOTES

12. An information collection server according to claim 1,  
wherein said collection conditions include predetermined  
character strings within the HTML source, and said information  
collection portion cuts out and acquires information based on  
5 said character string.

13. An information collection server comprising:  
a retrieval conditions memory that pre-stores retrieval  
conditions;

10 a search engine that acquires related server URLs based on said  
retrieval conditions;  
an information collection portion that accesses servers based  
on the retrieval results of said search engine, collects the  
contents of said servers, and distributes the collected  
15 contents to a mobile terminal; and

a conversion portion that converts the collected contents  
into a format for said mobile terminal,

wherein said information collection portion contains a  
synchronization portion for synchronizing contents between  
20 itself and said mobile terminal when contents are updated.

14. An information collection server comprising:

a collection conditions memory that pre-stores the  
conditions for collecting contents;

25 an information collection portion that accesses a server  
based on said collection conditions, collects the contents of  
said server, and distributes the collected contents to a mobile  
terminal; and

a conversion portion that converts the collected contents  
30 into a format for said mobile terminal,

wherein said information collection portion contains a  
synchronization portion for synchronizing contents between  
itself and said server when contents are updated.

35 15. An information collection server comprising:

a collection conditions memory that pre-stores the

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conditions for collecting contents;

an information collection portion that accesses a server based on said collection conditions, collects the contents of said server, and distributes the collected contents to a mobile terminal; and

a conversion portion that converts the collected contents into a format for said mobile terminal,

wherein said information collection portion contains a synchronization portion for synchronizing contents between said server and said mobile terminal when contents are updated.

16. An information collection method comprising the steps of:  
setting collection conditions;

collecting contents from a server based on said collection conditions;

converting the collected contents into a format for a mobile terminal;

synchronizing contents between an information collection server that collects contents and said mobile terminal; and

transmitting contents based on a demand from said mobile terminal.

17. An information collection method according to claim 16, wherein said synchronization step includes the steps of:

sending an inquiry on the generation number that shows the state of contents;

comparing the acquired generation number with the previous generation number; and

sending a demand for transmission of contents based on the comparison result.

18. An information collection method according to claim 17, wherein said contents include an ID number as their attribute, the method further comprising the steps of:

determining whether the ID number included in the received contents matches with the ID number of already held

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contents;

if there are no contents corresponding to the received ID number, registering the contents of said ID number as new contents;

5 if there are contents corresponding to the received ID number, correcting the contents by overwriting the contents of said ID number with the newly gained contents; and

10 if there are contents corresponding to the received ID number, and the gained contents are pseudo-contents, deleting the contents of said ID number.

19. An information collection method according to claim 16, wherein said step of transmitting contents further comprises the steps of:

15 if said contents includes image data, generating a pointer of said image data;

transmitting said pointer;

20 sending a demand for said image data based on said pointer; and

incorporating said image data in said contents.

20. An information collection method comprising the steps of: setting collection conditions;

25 synchronizing contents between an information collection server that collects contents and a server having contents; according to the synchronization result, collecting contents from said server based on said collection conditions;

converting the collected contents into a format for a mobile terminal; and

30 transmitting contents to said mobile terminal.

21. A medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute an information collection method comprising the steps of:

35 setting collection conditions;

collecting contents from a server based on said

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collection conditions;

converting the collected contents into a format for a mobile terminal;

synchronizing contents between an information collection server that collects contents and said mobile terminal; and transmitting contents based on a demand from said mobile terminal.

22. A medium storing a program for causing a computer to execute an information collection method comprising the steps of:

setting collection conditions;

synchronizing contents between an information collection server that collects contents and a server having contents;

according to the synchronization result, collecting contents from said server based on said collection conditions;

converting the collected contents into a format for a mobile terminal; and

transmitting contents to said mobile terminal.

23. A program for causing a computer to execute an information collection method comprising the steps of:

setting collection conditions;

collecting contents from a server based on said collection conditions;

converting the collected contents into a format for a mobile terminal;

synchronizing contents between an information collection server that collects contents and said mobile terminal; and

transmitting contents based on a demand from said mobile terminal.

24. A program for causing a computer to execute an information collection method comprising the steps of:

setting collection conditions;

synchronizing contents between an information collection

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server that collects contents and a server having contents;  
according to the synchronization result, collecting  
contents from said server based on said collection conditions;  
converting the collected contents into a format for a  
5 mobile terminal; and  
transmitting contents to said mobile terminal.

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